

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "STOVE", AN "INSERT", OR A "FIREPLACE"?

STOVE – "STOVE" indicates a FREESTANDING unit that sits outside of a wall (not framed into a wall or inserted into a fireplace). A "stove" has fully-exposed vent pipe that is visible inside the home (although it may come out the back and exit out the wall behind it). Examples of a stove:



INSERT – In order to install an INSERT, you must already have an open wood burning fireplace. An INSERT is then "inserted" INTO the open wood burning fireplace. Each style of insert is designed to burn ONE fuel type (natural gas (NG), propane (LP), pellets, wood or coal). All inserts require their own vent pipe. Example of an insert:



- The vent pipe for an insert **ALWAYS** goes up through a masonry or metal chimney and exits at the top of the chimney, above the roofline. Vent pipe for an insert **NEVER horizontally terminates** on the outside wall of a house (it MUST go up through a chimney). Just to clarify, you will never see an insert that is vented out the side of the house.
- An Insert ALWAYS has a removable "surround" which covers the larger fireplace opening. See the photo above.
- An Insert can be pulled out of the fireplace hole (see photo below)



ZERO CLEARANCE FIREPLACE – (aka “zero clearance” or “ZC”) - “FIREPLACE” indicates a unit which was FRAMED INTO THE HOUSE, and is considered to be permanently built into the house. It is NOT inserted into a pre-existing fireplace. A gas fireplace (NG or LP), or pellet fireplace, can be horizontally vented out the side of the home, but can also be vented through the roof. A wood fireplace is ALWAYS vented above the roofline. Venting for a fireplace does NOT go through a pre-existing masonry or metal chimney.

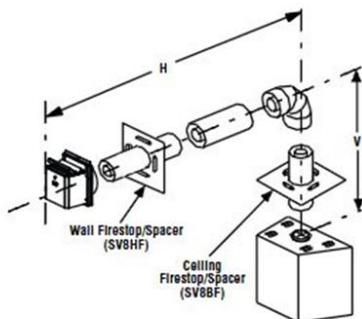
Examples:

ZC Fireplace being framed in

Notice that there is NO pre-existing masonry or brick chimney. The ZC Fireplace exhaust pipe is NOT run through a masonry chimney, however it may have a wood chase concealing the pipe outside, or above the roof line.



Example of a Horizontally Vented ZERO CLEARANCE FIREPLACE:



IF YOU'RE NOT SURE IF IT'S A ZC FIREPLACE OR AN INSERT, THIS MAY HELP:

- 1.) Flexible vent pipe USUALLY indicates that the unit is an insert. If your gas or wood unit has HARD vent pipe (instead of flexible vent pipe) then you have a FIREPLACE and do not have an insert. Pellet units, however, use hard pipe for inserts and fireplace installations.
- 2.) Horizontally terminated vent pipe (venting that goes through an exterior wall and has its chimney cap on an outside wall of the house), on a gas unit, is ALWAYS a fireplace, NEVER an insert. Pellet units that are vented horizontally, may be a pellet fireplace OR a pellet insert that has a special shield (effectively making it into a fireplace).
- 3.) Flex pipe inside a masonry, metal, or brick chimney is almost ALWAYS an insert.
- 4.) If you can grab the unit and pull it out of a masonry or metal firebox, then it's an insert, not a fireplace.

PLEASE NOTE: The information in this article assumes installation was performed by a qualified professional, following the manufacturer's instructions as well as all required Regulations and, Fire Codes. **However,** sometimes a homeowner or “handyman” installs a stove, insert or fireplace, without following the manufacturer's instructions, and without following Fire Code and other associated Regulations. **If you are in doubt, we would be delighted to assist you in determining what you have, and what you need. Please call or stop in for more information. P.S. Photos are always appreciated!**

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